

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claims 70 and 72 to 84, claims 37 to 69 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 70 and 72 to 84 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 70 and 72 to 84 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,813,224 and U.S. Patent No. 5,809,775. While Applicants do not necessarily agree with the merits of this rejection, to facilitate matters, claims 70 and 72 to 84 have been canceled herein without prejudice. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present rejection is moot, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Allowable Claims 37 to 69

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 37 to 69.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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